

THE SPECTACULAR
SPIDER-MAN

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

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PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN

FIRST ISSUE! COLLECTOR'S EDITION!
BY POPULAR DEMAND SPIDEY STARS
IN AN ALL-NEW ACTION SERIES!

FEATURING: THE
STINGING RETURN OF THE
TARANTULA!



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While attending a demonstration in radiology, student PETER PARKER was bitten by a spider which had accidentally been exposed to RADIOACTIVE RAYS. Through a miracle of science, Peter soon found that he had GAINED the insect's powers...and had, in effect, become a human spider...

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!**

GERRY CONWAY * SAL BUSCEMA * MIKE ESPOSITO * JOE ROSEN, LETTERER
WRITER / EDITOR * ARTIST / STORYTELLER * INKER / EMBELLISHER * DAVE HUNT, COLORIST

TWICE STINGS THE TARANTULA!

NOW REALLY...
IS THIS ANY WAY TO
START A COMIC MAGA-
ZINE WITH A SCENE SO
IDYLIC IT'S PRACTICALLY
A SLEEPING PILL? WELL,
BELIEVE IT OR NOT, FAITH-
FUL ONE, THIS COMMOINT
SPASH PAGE IS DESIGNED
TO LULL YOU INTO A
FALSE SENSE OF
SECURITY--

-- CAUSE THE
ACTION'S
ABOUT TO TAKE
OFF-- ON THE
VERY NEXT
PAGE!

WHAT A
WAY TO
WASTE A
MONDAY
MORNING--

-- SNAPPING
UP NEWS PHOTOS
OF A SPEECH
BY A VICE-
CHANCELLOR
OF MY BELOVED
UNIVERSITY!

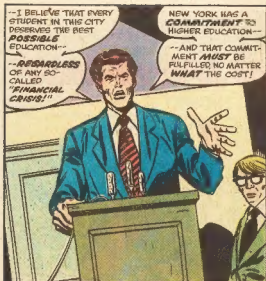
AND
FURTHER--
MORE--

IF I DIDN'T NEED
THE MONEY
J. JONAH JAMISON
IS GOING TO PAY
ME FOR THESE
PICS--

--I COULD
ALMOST
SCREAM FROM
BOREDOM!

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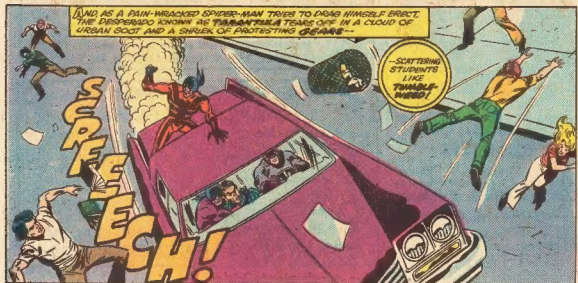
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CAPTAIN AMERICA AND THE FALCON--CRUSHED BY THE UNLIVING ENEMY!

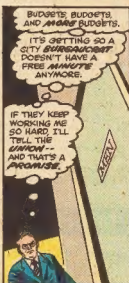


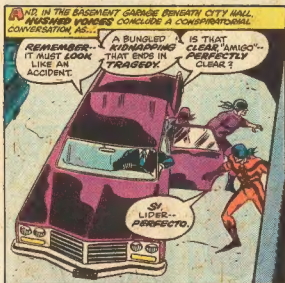




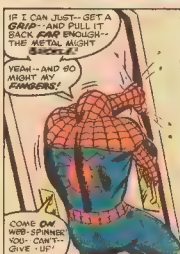
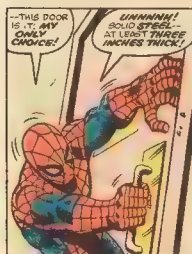
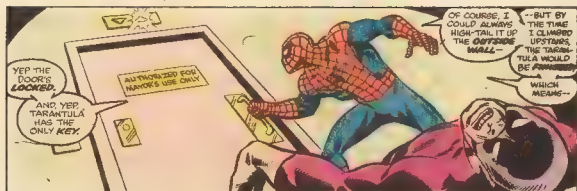














THE SPIDER'S WEB

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NOTES FROM MYSELF

Okay, it's a fair question: why *another* book about Marvel-dom's favorite web-spinner? What with **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN**, **MARVEL TEAM-UP**, and **MARVEL TALES** (our reab/9 reprint title), aren't there enough books devoted to Spidey's adventures?

Well, in a way, yes, and in a way, no.

First of all, Spidey isn't the only hero featured in three monthly books (*Captain America* and *The Hulk* are two others which come to mind), even though he is our most popular hero. He's one of the few characters who doesn't belong to a team, and though he's constantly guest-starring, he really doesn't get all that much exposure proportionately. Which isn't to say he's under-exposed, just not over-exposed, the way we see it. Still, that's just a reason why it isn't a bad idea, there are even more reasons why it's a good idea, both for us, and for you.

In the past few years, what with printing costs, and other factors, the average comic book story has dwindled in size (more so over at our competitors than at Marvel), with the result that it's become harder and harder for us to provide the depth of characterization and sub-plot on which Marvel readers thrive. We think we still give as much as we ever have, but it's getting more difficult to explore all the possibilities in a story line — and no book has felt this constraint more than **SPIDER-MAN**.

Let's face it: what makes **SPIDER-MAN** the excellent comic magazine it is, is its spectacular supporting cast; from J. Jonah Jameson through Mary Jane Watson to the ever-agonizing Aunt May, the **SPIDER-MAN** cast is the finest ever created in comics. Those people are real, to us and to you, and they need room to live, breathe, and develop.

PETER PARKER, SPIDER-MAN, is going to provide them with that room.

We're going to try something different with this book, something that really hasn't been done before, to this extent: in comics Characters and sub-plots are going to overlap between **PETER PARKER** and the regular **SPIDER-MAN** book, moving back and forth in a carefully structured ballet (we hope) that will bring you more story than you could possibly have in one monthly magazine. I'm going to coordinate my stories with the stories in **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN**, and what isn't covered in that book, will be covered

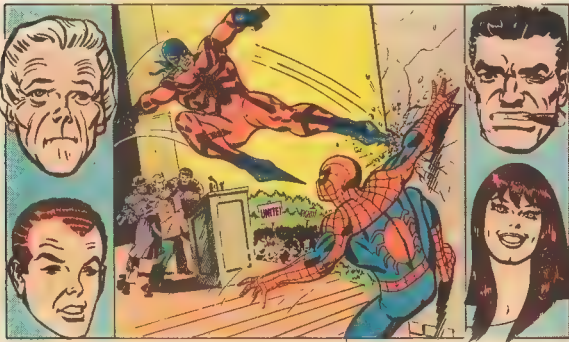
in this one. In other words, instead of two regular **SPIDER-MAN** comics, you're going to have one double-sized comic — at least, that's the way we see it now. Naturally, there'll be some growing pains; some issues won't mesh as comfortably as we'd like, others may be slightly redundant — but in a few months, we expect you'll see something special growing before your very eyes.

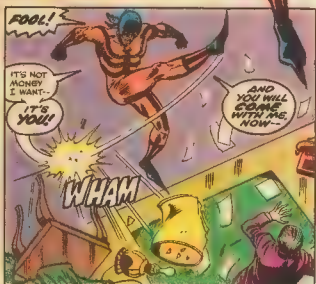
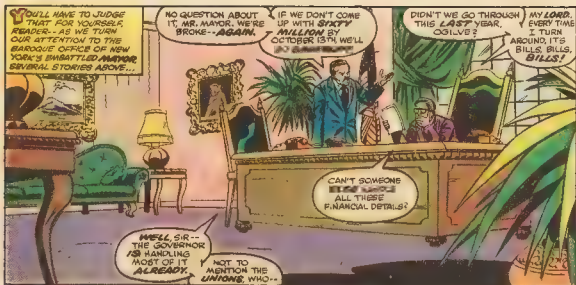
You see, we don't want this to be "just another Spidey mag" — cause as far as we're concerned, that kind of reputation is the kiss of death for any character. It happened to another Super-hero at our Dashing Competition, there were so many books about him and his friends and his acquaintances and his nephews and dogs and people he met in the street and total strangers who'd seen him once on TV — that pretty soon, all the stories became alike, and one issue was exactly like another. (Don't think we haven't jokingly considered **SPIDEY'S GIRL FRIEND**, **MARY JANE WATSON** and **SPIDEY'S EX-ROOMMATE**, **HARRY OSBORN** and **SPIDEY'S AUNT MAY** — we have, and we won't.) We're interested in maintaining interest (yours and ours), and the best way to do that is to keep a firm grasp on our standards of quality. On **Spider-Man**, those standards haven't wavered yet; they won't waver now.

Anyway, that's why another book about **Spider-Man**.

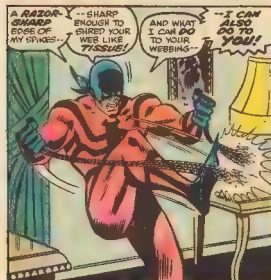
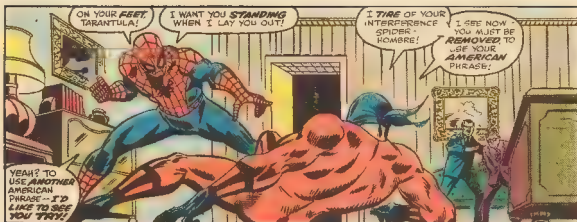
RANDOM NOTES: Anyone who read **NEWSWEEK** magazine's July 26th issue knows we're not alone in our admiration for our friendly neighborhood wall crawler. Apparently, Spidey's got a fan in **Amy Carter** (Presidential Nominee **Jimmy Carter's** eight year old daughter), who's pictured reading an **ELECTRIC COMPANY** edition of **Spider-Man** while curled in her father's lap. Who says this isn't the **Marvel Age of Influence on Presidential Politics**? (And in case there's someone out there who thinks we're playing partisan politics — we'll be glad to mention **Jack Ford** just as soon as we see a new photo of him glomming an issue of **HOWARD THE DUCK**. Fair's fair, right?) — G C

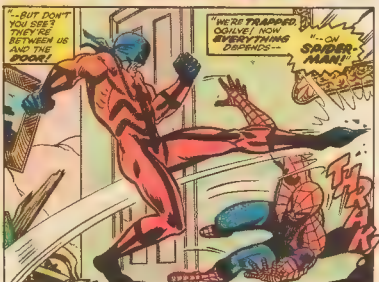
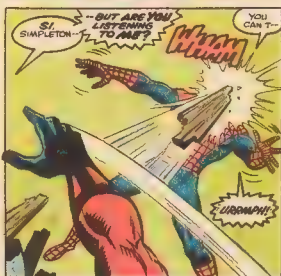
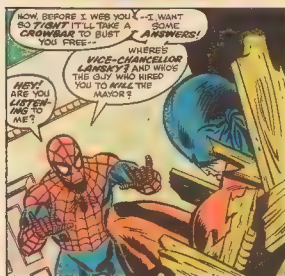
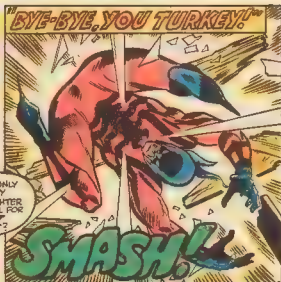
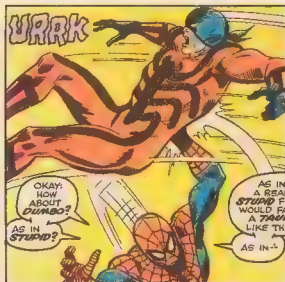
Next issue, we'll continue the adventure begun this issue, we'll also offer a few surprises, one of them concerning an unexpected job for **GLORIA GRANT**, and another having to do with that queen of the geriatric set, **AUNT MAY**. Be here, Spideophile, in one month, for the return of **KRAVEN THE HUNTER**, and a story titled: "IF DEATH BE VICTORY..."! Until then, watch your feet: the spider you step on might just be a super-hero.











A TESTAMENT TO TAPESTRIES TEMPESTUOUS, TALES TITANIC, AND TABLEAUX TREASURED!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Wow! I never thought we'd get so much mail about something that never even appeared in one of our comics! I'm referring, of course, to the avalanche of letters we've received about a certain commercial on television—the one in which I speak up for the Persona razor and blades—which has been all over the tube for the past few months. All of Marveldom Assembled has been bombarding me with the same question, "Why didn't I announce it in the Soapbox so you'd know when and where to see it?" The reason is—I couldn't! I thought it would only be shown for a week or two, and that by the time we could get a notice printed in our mags it would be over. Also, I never knew in advance on which program it'll be shown—it seems to be all over the place. But here's a tip—they mostly use it on the major network sports shows. And here's the wildest part of it—remember the part at the end where I jokingly shout "Persona Man!"? Well, so many of you have gotten a charge out of that name that—you guessed it—we're thinking of creating a real Persona Man character! And whenever he has a narrow escape, we'll have to refer to it as a "close shave", right? Oh well, that's show biz! Can't write any more now, have to race to the nearest book shop and order a copy of the newest of our "Origins" titles, the big, colorful, third in the series, called **BRING ON THE BAD GUYS!** Sure, I'm the guy who wrote it, but you know what a nowhere memory I have—I can't wait to find out whether the good guys or the villains win! So, till Howard the Duck is sworn in as our next President, always remember—wherever you go, whenever you're with, whatever you do, the eyes of the world are upon you—so keep the faith, hang loose, and THINK MARVEL!

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! Two brand new blockbusters are headed your way this month and we're so excited about them, we just naturally have to make their announcement the very first tidbit we serve up! What do you do when a character is so popular that two monthly books featuring his adventures only leave most Marvelites screaming for more? Well, you don't do anything until you're one hundred percent certain that you have a writer/artist team capable

who can maintain the same high standards set on the two books already being published. Then—and only then—you come up with a third monthly title that deftly duplicates all the wonderment of the other two. The writer is GERRY CONWAY. The artists are SAL BUSCEMA and MIKE ESPOSITO. The book is called **RETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN**. And if it is somewhat long on title, it's also just as long on the brand of action and thrills that have made Spidey the most popular comics character over! But we said two blockbusters, right? For the second we have to look 25 years into the future...and to JACK "KING" KIRBY. Assisted byinker/letterer MIKE ROYER, the King has taken the comic concepts of the MGM-Stanley Kubrick movie classic, 2001 A SPACE ODYSSEY, and turned them into an off-beat monthly series that's bound to leave you mind-boggled and bedazzled. Yep. Our mammoth Treasury Edition adaptation of the film was only the start! In this all-new, all-original 30¢ comic, Jack expands upon what Kubrick and s-f author Arthur C. Clarke began and weaves a continuing saga that stretches from man's awakening on Earth all the way to his ultimate destiny in the stars. If you crave comics with a difference, this is it!

ITEM! Marvel's Mean Machine continues to roll along on the softball diamonds of Central Park, defeating Viking Press 8 to 7 and easing over Plenum Publishing 21 to 4. Will they keep it up? Will luck and skill continue to prevail? Will the rules committee finally question the presence of a seven foot tall, one thousand pound centerfielder who has green skin and purple pants? Tune in next month, sport fans.

ITEM! As the previous item may clue you, this is being written in the summer, mid-June to be precise. June is traditionally the time of weddings, and, believe it or not, even a mixed-up bunch like the bullpen can sometimes be traditional. So, we have two couples getting married this month. "Humble HOWARD" BENDER, asst. letterer of our boisterous British Dept., and his lady JONI REICH plus "Devil-Mey-Care DOUG" MOENCH and "Dazzling DEBRA" JAMES, long-time teammates already as writer and letterer of our WEREWOLF BY NIGHT book. Congratulations to four very nice folks; best wishes for the future to you all!

ITEM! Coming out at the end of this month from our Black and White dept. is **MARVEL PREVIEW #8** which will feature the long promised adaptation of Phillip Wylie's **GLADIATOR**, under the brand new title of **MAN-GOD**. The original 1930 novel virtually created the prototype for the modern-day super-hero, and for almost a year now, writer/editor ROY THOMAS has been

struggling through various setbacks to finally get it produced in graphic story form. RICH BUCKLER began the artwork, TONY DEZUNIGA completed it, all that's lacking now is your stamp of approval. But once you check it out, we have a hunch that won't be long in coming!

ITEM! If getting ahead in life is your problem (it certainly is your blushing Bullpen's!), September may be just the month for you, because our 1977 Marvel Calendar goes on sale then. Think of the jump that gives you on next year! It also gives you dazzling full-cover illos by JACK KIRBY, JOHN & SAL BUSCEMA, GEORGE PEREZ, GENE COLAN, JOHN ROMITA, JOE SINNOTT and a host of other favorites, plus the wit, cogent comments and mind-teasing Marvel nostalgia quizzes of writer/editor ROY THOMAS. Pick up on it. With all the goodies we've got going in it, it's more than a calendar, it's a whole event!



ITEM! Welcome Wagon time again, good people. If you've been following our CAPT. MARVEL or GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY series (and surely no true believer will admit to not following them), then you've noticed the fine line work of two new inkers in the Bullpen. Say hi to "Timorous TERRY" AUSTIN (of CM) and "Bumptious BOB" WIACEK (who handles GUARDIANS). But don't stop there, because we're also way overdue in extending firm, dry handshakes to "Beaming BETH" BLECKLEY and "Mellow MARY ELLEN" BEVERIDGE, editorial assistants extraordinaire, and to "Nimble NAOMI" BASNER, amiable aid to Operations Vice President "Jolly Solly" BRODSKY and no small help as catcher on the bullpen softball team. Glad to have the bunch of ya!



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SPIDER-MAN! IN THE SPIDER-MAN AND THE FLY!

SPIDER-MAN IS A PRISONER OF THE VILLAIN CALLED THE FLY.



WAKE UP, WEB HEAD.

JUST WHAT I'VE ALWAYS WANTED... TO HAVE BREAKFAST WITH THE FLY!... BUT WHAT HAPPENED... I REMEMBER BEING THROWN FROM THE TOP OF THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING, FLY... NOW THAT WASN'T NICE... BUT WHAT AM I DOING HERE?

I'M HERE TO "ENTERTAIN" YOU, WEB SLINGER.

...JUST WHAT I NEED... A FEW LAUGHS



DON'T GET TRAPPED IN YOUR OWN NETWORK OF PUNS, INSECT IMITATOR... THIS IS NO LAUGHING MATTER... YOU'LL SOON BE WIGGLING AND SQUIRMING, MY SPIDERY FRIEND, WHEN YOU SEE WHAT I HAVE IN STORE FOR YOU.

WRONG, MY BUZZING FLY FRIEND! THESE STRAPS CAN'T HOLD ME, SO WHATEVER YOU HAVE IN STORE, YOU'LL HAVE TO SELL TO SOMEONE ELSE!



AHA! "COME INTO MY PARLOR, SAID THE FLY TO THE SPIDER"... OR WAS IT THE OTHER WAY AROUND?

MY SPIDER SENSE IS TINGLING BUT NOTHING ELSE IS MOVING. I MUST BREAK THIS ELECTRONIC FIELD TRAP, SOMEHOW.



THIS IS SERIOUS, MY WIRY FRIEND AND ENEMY. LET'S HEAR A JOKE NOW.

ZWEE

OKAY YOU WIN. I GIVE UP. BUT FIRST HAVE A HOSTESS® "TWINKIES" HERE IN MY UTILITY BELT.



DELICIOUS HOSTESS® "TWINKIES!" IT'S THE ONLY THING I LOVE! THAT GOLDEN SPONGE CAKE... AND CREAMED FILLING.

OK, MY BUZZING GAD FLY--I'M GOING TO SWAT YOU LIKE A MOSQUITO...



THONK!

DO WHAT YOU WANT... CLIP MY WINGS... ANYTHING... BUT AT LEAST HAVE THE DECENCY TO LET ME FINISH MY WONDERFUL HOSTESS® "TWINKIES!"

OF COURSE, MY NOBLE ENEMY. I DISPENSE JUSTICE BUT TEMPERED WITH MERCY... AND SOMETIMES EVEN... HOSTESS® "TWINKIES!"



YOU GET A BIG DELIGHT IN EVERY BITE OF HOSTESS® TWINKIES







NEXT ISSUE: THE TARANTULA RETURNS-- PLUS ANOTHER OLD VILLAIN--

KRAVEN IS THE HUNTER!

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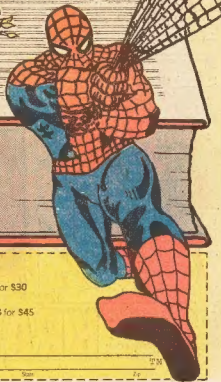
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